

## AMENDMENTS

Please amend the application as indicated hereafter.

### In the Claims

Please substitute the following clean copy text for the pending claims of the same number.

502  
B1

6. (Once Amended) An integrated circuit comprising:  
a first port located in a first area of integrated circuit real estate, for outputting a signal;  
a second port located in a second area of integrated circuit real estate, for receiving said signal;  
a common area comprising an alignment link for electrically connecting said first port with said second port;  
said first port extends directly into said common area from a first area;  
said second port extends directly into said common area from a second area;  
said alignment link comprises a signal buffer for buffering a signal traveling along said alignment link between said first port and said second port; and  
said integrated circuit real estate comprises multi-levels.

B2

10. (Once Amended) An integrated circuit according to claim 9 wherein said wire-tracing level comprises a plurality of wire-tracing levels.